

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 L-03 SSO-00 ARAE-00

INR-07 INRE-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 /036 W

----- 112927

O 081412Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0583

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0656

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID,EFIN,BB

SUBJ: GOB SIGNATURE OF UWI LOAN GUARANTEE

REFS: (A) STATE 23901; (B) STATE 71566 (C) STATE 081387

(D) STATE 082883 (E) BRIDGETOWN 0632

1. IN SPITE OF EMBASSY URGING, GOB APPEARS UNWILLING REPEAT UNWILLING, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, TO SIGN THE SUBJECT GUARANTEE TOMORROW, APRIL 9. ON APRIL 7, MINFIN CONTACT LEWIS SUDDENLY RAISED LEGAL ARGUMENT TO THE EFFECT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PLANNING STEVE EMTAGE COULD NOT SIGN EVEN IF HE WERE PRESENT THAT DAY BECAUSE HE HIMSELF APPOINTS ACCOUNTABLE OFFICERS. (IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, EMTAGE HAD EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO SIGN BUT AT THAT POINT APPARENTLY HAD NOT DISCOVERED THE LEGAL ARGUMENT.) EMBOFF THEN PRESSED FOR QUICK DESIGNATION OF AN ALTERNATE, AND EXECUTION OF HIS AUTHORITY TO SIGN. MINFIN OFFICIAL PROMISED TO TRY BUT GAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT SIGNING WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE ON THE NINTH. HE ALSO RAISED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE'S WISH TO VET THE LOAN AGREEMENT ITSELF. (THE EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE A COPY AND LEWIS DOES NOT WISH TO ASK THE UNIVERSITY HERE FOR A COPY.) INTERESTINGLY, LEWIS SAID GUARANTEE FILE HAD BEEN SITTING ON THE P.M.'S DESK FOR SEVERAL DAYS BUT THAT HE, LEWIS, HAD REMOVED IT APRIL 6.

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2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT DURING PRESENT PERIOD OF

SOMEWHAT STRAINED US-GOB RELATIONS RESULTING FROM CIVIL AVIATION IMBROGLIO, THE PM HAS NO DESIRE TO SEE THE GUARANTEE SIGNED AND PUBLICIZED. PROBABLY SOMEWHAT RELEVANT IN THIS CONTEXT IS THE PM'S WELL-KNOWN PERSONAL ANTIPATHY TOWARD UWI SENIOR STAFF HERE.

3. OUR GUESS IS THAT GOB WILL NOT ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO SIGN; RATHER, THAT THE MATTER WILL BE DELAYED PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN GOB-USG RELATIONS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HAVING DERIVED SUFFICIENT SATISFACTION FROM HAVING LEFT US DANGLING, TOMORROW THE GOB WILL SUDDENLY INFORM US ALL IS IN ORDER FOR THE SIGNING.
SIMMS

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Message Attributes

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